



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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# Catch Falling Stars at Sully Woodlands

For those whose appetite for “shooting stars” was whetted by last month’s spectacular Leonid meteor shower, the Geminid meteor shower will reach peak activity Friday, December 14, 2007. Luckily, Sully Woodlands in western Fairfax County is home to some of the darkest skies in the Washington D.C area and the 4,000 acres of wooded landscape create the perfect surroundings for stargazing.

The Fairfax County Park Authority invites you and your family to view this celestial extravaganza at 7 p.m. at Sully Woodlands and learn basic information about the night sky, the moon, its planets and constellations. The Geminids are usually the most satisfying of all the annual meteor showers, even surpassing the famous Perseids of August.

Shooting and falling stars are common names which people have used through the centuries to describe meteors—intense streaks of light across darkened skies caused by small bits of interplanetary rock and debris called meteoroids, crashing and burning high in Earth’s upper atmosphere. Traveling at thousands of miles an hour, meteorites quickly ignite in the searing friction of the atmosphere, 30 to 80 miles above the ground. Almost all are destroyed in this process; the rare few that survive and hit the ground are known as meteorites.

The cost is \$4 per child and \$2 per adult. Reservations are required. Anyone willing to brave the chill will likely see a fine display, weather permitting. Don’t forget blankets, lawn chairs, star maps, red-filtered flashlights and warm clothes for the ultimate viewing experience. To reserve your spots, call 703-817-9407.

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